

FEB 1952 51-4AA

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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Black Sea)

DATE DISTR. 26 January 1953

SUBJECT Port of Kherson;
Naval Observations Between Odessa and Kherson

NO. OF PAGES 3

DATE OF
INFO.PLACE
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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3. It took exactly two and a quarter hours to load the grain, with six conduits loading the holds of the ship. The grain elevator had a capacity of approximately 20,000 tons and was equipped with a very modern system of transference. This consisted of 12 conduits, each 35 cm in diameter and about 65 meters long, the distance between the quay and the elevator. The depth alongside was about 21 feet and the width of the quay was about 250 meters.

4. To the west of the grain elevator, heavy traffic of river barges. These barges were unloading cases which may have contained ammunition because the material was quickly transferred to an enclosure.

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5. Farther west, about a kilometer from the grain elevator, there was a building with four chimneys. On the side of the building that faced the town there was an enclosed inclined passage which probably housed a conveyor belt for the transference of material from the building.

6. Still farther to the west, there was a 5,000-ton heap of coal.

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7. About two km west of the Harbor Master's office there was a small waterway on which was located a shipyard with two floating drydocks. One of these had about a 3000-ton capacity and was made of steel, but it was only partially constructed; while the other was of reinforced concrete and already in use.
8. Near the shipyard there was a high wall which extended to the end of the promontory and hid from view most of what was on the other side. However, the buildings which appeared new could still be seen, as well as construction work on other buildings. The cranes were also visible.
9. Only the ship's captain was allowed to go ashore and then only for the signature on the bill of lading and the customary visas. He was escorted the whole time until he returned to the ship.
10. Some of the workers that were loading the ship secretly requested food from the crew. This led the latter to think that they were in rather precarious economic straits. Besides food, they also asked for cigarettes. Generally, the workers smoke a vile tobacco which they roll in newspapers. It is almost impossible to have any contacts with the inhabitants, women as well as men. As already mentioned, the poor standard of living of the port workers was evident. The port was carefully guarded by the police at all times and foreign seamen were not permitted to circulate freely either in the port or in the city.
11. In the channel between Kherson and Odessa, two ships sunk during the war could still be seen. Kherson and Odessa were served by two small steamers that travelled about 12 knots per hour.
12. A little to the east of Pt. Ochakov there were several masonry sheds or warehouses. These faced the channel and had doors that were very large, both wide and high, and possibly of the rolling shutter type. They appeared to be practically level with the water surface. At Pt. Ochakov itself, there were other sheds similar to the above, and of recent construction. From their position, size, and form, these buildings might very well house submarines and other slender naval craft.
13. On Fort Nikolayev Island not much could be seen because of the vegetation. However, on the western part of the island, on a promontory, two large-caliber guns could be seen; one of these had a rather short and stumpy barrel compared with the other and may have been a howitzer. Both were mounted on undercarriages of mobile bases of some sort that were withdrawn in dens. On the northern part of the island there was a signal mast with some soldiers on duty.
14. Ships that were observed in the course of this journey include:
 - a. The Soviet ship Karl Marx, about 4,000 tons, seen between Kherson and Odessa

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- d. A Soviet Liberty ship with a cargo; it passed source's ship
- e. Many Soviet patrol boats, cruising the channel
- f. Some dredges working between Litvinov Island and Schakov Island
- g. A modern Soviet tanker of about 12,000 tons, sighted near Fidonisi Island

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[REDACTED]
Between Odessa and Cape Fontana a searchlight picked up the ship and followed it for awhile.

15. East of Fidonisi Island [REDACTED] five Soviet warships were seen [REDACTED] The squadron leader had three funnels [REDACTED] while the others [REDACTED] were all new units equipped with radar. Each was armed with a 76 mm gun and various machine guns.

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